

of the Journal, of late Nos. of the Proceedings, and of previous Nos. of the same, deficient in the series of that Society.

August 24th.

Prof. HALDEMAN in the Chair.

Letters were read

From Lieut. W. S. Boyd, U. S. Marine Corps, dated Valparaiso, June 27th, 1852, referring to a collection of shells now offered for sale by Mr. Weld, Purser U. S. N.

From Prof. Ehrlich, dated Linez, April 3, 1852, presenting the works announced this evening.

From M. Laporte, Sr., dated Bordeaux, May 4, 1852, in reference to an exchange of foreign insects for those of this country.

August 31st.

MR. ORD, President, in the Chair.

The Committee on the following paper by Prof. Baird and Mr. Chas. Girard, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Characteristics of some New Reptiles in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

By SPENCER F. BAIRD and CHARLES GIRARD.

SECOND PART,

Containing the species of the Saurian order, collected by John H. Clark, under Col. J. D. Graham, head of the Scientific Corps U. S. and Mexican Boundary Commission, and a few others from the same or adjoining territories, obtained from other sources, and mentioned under their special headings.

HOLBROOKIA TEXANA, B. and G.—*Cophosaurus texanus*, Trosch. Arch. für Naturg. for 1850, (published in 1852,) 389. Tab. VI.

This species, easily distinguished from *H. maculata*, attains a larger size and is provided with a more elongated tail. The body above and the lower surface of the head are grayish, maculated with small yellowish white subcircular dots; on the upper surface of the tail and hind legs there are transverse bands of black. On the posterior half of the abdomen there are two black crescents, the convexity of which is posterior, and extending from near the back to the belly, without coming into contact either above or below. The space between the crescents, as well as an anterior and posterior area, are yellowish white on the back and blue on the belly. The breast, the medial line of the belly, the inferior surface of thighs and tail, are unicolor, of a uniform yellowish white; the tail underneath presents seven or more large subquadrangular or subcircular black patches. In the female, the abdominal crescents are represented by two lateral spots.

Localities.—Along the Rio San Pedro, a tributary of the Rio Grande del Norte.

HOLBROOKIA AFFINIS, B. and G.—This species comes nearest to *H. texana*, from which however it can be readily distinguished by its more slender form and its proportionally larger dorsal scales and superciliary plates. The coloration differs but little from the former in the female, to which sex the only specimen in our possession belongs. The back however is darker, scattered with black spots, of which two dorsal rows may be followed from the occiput to the base of the tail, where they meet and constitute a crescent or an angle, the convexity of

which is directed backwards. The tail underneath is provided with black patches similar to those in *H. texana*.

Locality.—Found with the preceding species.

HOLBROOKIA PROPINQUA, B. and G.—This species, very closely allied to *H. maculata*, is most readily distinguished by a more slender form of body and a more elongated tail. Another character is found in the possession of a more depressed and protruding snout. On the sides of the abdomen there are sometimes two, but generally three, black patches, whilst in *H. maculata* these conditions are reversed.

Localities.—Between Indianola and San Antonio (Texas.) We possess one individual of the same species, collected by R. H. Kern, Esq., in a more south-westerly locality.

HOLBROOKIA MACULATA, G.—Specimens of this species were obtained on the boundary line between San Antonio (Texas) and El Paso del Norte, thus extending greatly its geographical range.

CROTAPHYTUS GAMBELII, B. and G.—Of the size, shape and general appearance of *C. Wislizenii*, from which however it can be readily distinguished by the larger scales both on the back and belly. The head is likewise more ovoidal; at any rate the plates which cover its surface are larger, especially on the occipital region. The scales on the sides of the head are larger than in *C. Wislizenii*, especially those of the temporal region. The general distribution of color is the same as in *C. Wislizenii*; the only difference consists in the absence of the small yellowish white dots spread all over the body of the latter species. The transverse yellowish markings appear also to be more conspicuous.

Locality.—Not precisely known; collected by the late Dr. Wm. Gambel during his last visit to California. Specimens also in the Academy of Natural Sciences.

CROTAPHYTUS DORSALIS, B. and G.—A small and very characteristic species. The snout is short, truncated or rather rounded, giving to the head a much greater resemblance to that of *C. collaris* than to that of either *C. Wislizenii* or *C. Gambelii*. The scales are proportionally larger than in any of the known species of the genus. Along the dorsal line, a row of still larger and carinated scales, constitutes another very distinctive mark between this species and the others, its congeners. The tail seems rather compressed and is one and a half times the length of the body. The ground color above is bluish brown with crowded yellowish-white subcircular spots. The tail is alternately semi-annulated with bluish-brown and yellowish-white. The lower part of the body is unicolor, except under the head, where there are several narrow and oblique bluish streaks.

Locality.—Desert of Colorado, California. Collected by Dr. John L. LeConte.

This species, according to the notes of Dr. LeConte, in running, carries its body very high above the ground, with the tail frequently elevated over the back, somewhat like a squirrel. It runs with very great swiftness, over the sand, making for its hole whenever pursued.

UTA ORNATA, B. and G.—This species may be distinguished from *U. Stansburiana*, of which it has the general appearance, by a dorsal space covered with five or six rows of scales larger than those on the sides of the body. Along the middle of the sides there exists one row of small scutellæ imitating the lateral line in fishes. The ground color is reddish-brown with transversely elongated black patches all along the upper part of the body and tail. The belly is unicolor in the female, whilst it is blue in the male.

Localities.—On the Rio San Pedro (Texas) and province of Sonora. Specimens of the same species were collected by Dr. John L. LeConte at San Diego (Cal.) and San Francisco (Cal.)

SCeloporus POINSETTI, B. and G.—*Sc. torquatus* var. B. Wiegmann?—This species, although more intimately related to *Sc. torquatus* than to any other of the same genus, is nevertheless easily distinguishable from the latter by the form and structure of the scales on the middle region of the back, which are subcircu-

lar, very thin, without carinæ and finely denticulated posteriorly. On the sides, the upper part of the legs and on the tail, the scales taper posteriorly into a sharp point. The plates on the upper surface of the head are rather small and irregular in shape, except the occipital, which is larger than in any other allied species. The general color is olivaceous, reddish on the back and sides, with transverse dorsal black bands, much broader and more distinct on the tail. There is also a black collar convex backwards, embracing the region of the neck above and terminating in advance of the origin of the fore legs.

At the request of Col. J. D. Graham, we have dedicated this species to the memory of the late Hon. Joel R. Poinsett, whose name is associated with the progress of science and the useful arts throughout his public career, especially while Secretary of War of the United States.

Localities.—Rio San Pedro of the Rio Grande del Norte, and the province of Sonora.

SCOLOPORUS CLARKII, B. and G.—Allied to both *Sc. torquatus* and *Sc. spinosus*, it resembles the former in the presence of an imperfect black collar, which is more distinct in the young. This, however, is never seen to form a complete crescent on the neck, but is gradually diminishing in width from its origin in advance of the fore legs towards the upper part of the body. From *Sc. spinosus* it differs by having proportionally much larger scales on the temporal region, and all the scales terminated by a much less developed posterior point. The body is uniform yellowish green, excepting the band of black on the sides of the head. The male has a bluish abdomen, indistinctly black along the middle region. The lower surface of the head is blue, on the middle region surrounded with black.

Dedicated to John H. Clark, to whose skill as a collector, and untiring zeal for science, the world is indebted for the splendid zoological collections sent and brought home by Col. Graham from the survey of the Mexican boundary.

Locality.—Province of Sonora.

SCOLOPORUS THAYERII, B. and G.—This species has the general appearance of *Sc. scalaris* and *Sc. graciosus*. It differs from both by a very readily appreciable character, which consists in the possession of much larger scales on the upper region of the body. The color is yellowish green above, with two longitudinal bands of brown or black, and two yellow ones, on each side. Sometimes, instead of bands, a series of small patches of the same color is observed, the black patches also form transverse and undulating narrow bands. The belly is uniform yellow underneath, the male has on each side an elongated patch of blue, with a narrow band of black along the abdominal margin. Under the throat there is a medial black patch, limiting on each side another blue spot.

At the request of Col. Graham likewise, we have dedicated this species to Col. Sylvanus Thayer, of the U. S. Engineer corps, and the founder of the present system of instruction at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, as a tribute to the high scientific attainments and valuable services in his profession as an officer.

Localities.—Indianola, on the Gulf of Mexico, San Antonio, (Texas,) El Paso del Norte, and as far westward as the province of Sonora.

SCOLOPORUS DISPAR, B. and G.—No species of the genus *Sceloporus* will be more easily recognizable than the present one, on account of the great disparity which exists between the scales on the upper part of the body and those on the tail, the latter being twice as large and more strongly carinated. The scales on the abdomen are likewise a little larger than those on the back. The color in the only specimen which we have hitherto seen of this species is uniform blackish green, but as it has been collected for a long time, the color may have changed considerably. The head is reddish brown. The abdomen in the male is blue from the fore to the hind legs, leaving a medial narrow space of the color of the throat and thighs, and along which a narrow black band separates it from the blue.

Locality.—Vera Cruz. Sent by Dr. Burroughs to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, where the specimen described is preserved.

Genus CNEMIDOPHORUS.

A. With eight rows of abdominal scales.

CNEMIDOPHORUS MARMORATUS, B. and G.—This species is so closely allied to *Cn. tigris* figured in Stansbury's Report on the great Salt Lake, that, at first sight, it is difficult to perceive the differences. These consist in the proportional size of the scales, which are smaller on the back and larger on the tail and belly, in *Cn. marmoratus* than in *Cn. tigris*. The head is broader on the vertex in *Cn. marmoratus* than in *Cn. tigris*. Differences in the shape of the cephalic plates are likewise obvious when the two species are compared. The hind legs are more developed in *Cn. marmoratus* than in *Cn. tigris*, the scales which cover their under surface are larger and extend over a greater area. The ground color is yellowish green, marbled with black, except on the head and posterior part of the tail.

Locality.—Between San Antonio (Texas) and El Paso del Norte.

CNEMIDOPHORUS GRAHAMII, B. and G.—This is a large and beautiful species, strongly suggestive of *Cn. tigris*, from which it differs by a much smaller and narrower head, and by some differences in the proportional size of the cephalic plates. The scales on the upper region of the body are still more minute than in *Cn. marmoratus*. Those on the margin of the subgular fold are much larger than in either *Cn. tigris* and *Cn. marmoratus*. The head is olivaceous; the ground color of the body reddish-green, with seven or eight longitudinal series of subquadrangular black dots, constituting sometimes continuous bands. This species is dedicated to the accomplished officer to whom the U. S. and Mexican boundary survey was, for a short time, entrusted. His name has long been associated with the progress of science in the United States, from the date of the first expedition of Major Long, to the present time, and we take great pleasure in tendering this especial mark of respect.

Locality.—Found with the preceding species.

CNEMIDOPHORUS GULARIS, B. and G.—Allied to *Cn. sexlineatus*, of which it has the general appearance. The body, however, is shorter, the fore and hind legs are more developed, and the scales on the upper region of the body smaller than in the latter species. Another very striking difference is to be found on the subgular fold, where the marginal scales are considerably larger than in *Cn. sexlineatus*.

Localities.—From Indianola, (Texas,) and the valley of the Rio San Pedro, a tributary of the Rio Grande del Norte.

CNEMIDOPHORUS PERPLEXUS, B. and G.—This species has the general appearance of *Cn. Grahamii*, having like the latter a proportionally small and narrow head, which distinguishes at once these from both *Cn. tigris* and *Cn. marmoratus*. From *Cn. Grahamii* it differs by the absence of large scales on the margin of the subgular fold. The scales on the upper part of the body are nearly the same, but those on the belly are larger in *Cn. perplexus* than in *Cn. Grahamii*. The ground color is yellowish green, with seven yellowish stripes extending from the occiput to the origin of the tail.

Localities.—Valley of the Rio San Pedro of the Rio Grande del Norte. Specimens were also collected by Gen. Churchill, on the Rio Grande west of San Antonio, (Texas,) and by Dr. William Gambel on his last journey to California.

CNEMIDOPHORUS GRACILIS, B. and G.—This species comes nearer to *Cn. perplexus* than to any other of the same genus, but the head is still narrower, the body, tail, and legs slender, and proportionally more elongated. The scales on the lower surface of the head and throat are much smaller than in *Cn. perplexus*. The color is bluish black above, with four yellowish white narrow stripes extending from the occiput to the origin of the tail.

Locality.—Desert of Colorado; collected by Dr. John L. Le Conte.

B. With ten rows of abdominal scales.

CNEMIDOPHORUS PRAESIGNIS, B. and G.—Ten longitudinal rows of abdominal scales, quadrangular, broader than long. Two subguttural folds, the surface of the posterior one covered with scales of medium size. A transverse band of similar scales extends from one ear opening to the other. Nostrils between the suture of two plates. Scales on the upper part of the body proportionally small; on the tail, elongated, narrow and keeled. The middle region of the back is greenish brown, exhibiting an indistinct medial streak with irregular quadrangles of the same color on each side, separated by a narrow band of deep black. The sides are black, provided with two narrow stripes of yellowish white on each and extending along the tail. Between these stripes, and specially along the abdomen, irregular dots of the color of the stripes are seen scattered. The hind legs and tail are variegated with black and bluish spots.

Locality.—From Chagres, collected by Prof. C. B. Adams. Said to be also common at Panama.

PLESTIODON OBSOLETUM, B. and G.—Total length about nine inches. Body and limbs rather short and stout; tail longer than the body, conical, and rapidly tapering away. Parieto-occipital and vertical the largest of all the cephalic plates; rostral, labials, and temporal ones considerably developed. General color greenish white; uniform below; the scales on the back and sides are thinly margined with black.

Locality.—Valley of the Rio San Pedro of the Rio Grande del Norte.

ELGARIA NOBILIS, B. and G.—This is the most beautiful species of the genus. The body and tail are slender and elongated; the limbs slender and rather short. The ventral shields are twelve rowed; fourteen longitudinal rows of scales on the back, obscurely keeled. The ground color is olivaceous; the upper surface of the head, the belly and lower surface of the tail, are dotted with black. From the occiput to the origin of the tail, there are nine or ten transverse blackish brown bands on the back, covering two or three rows of scales, margined posteriorly with white. The intermediate spaces between these brown bands are of the same width as the bands themselves. Upwards of twenty brown half-rings are observed on the tail, the width of which is a little less than the intermediate spaces.

Locality.—Fort Webster, Copper mines of the Gila, (Santa Rita del Cobre,) New Mexico.

The Committee to which was referred Dr. Le Conte's remarks on the Coccinellidæ of the United States, and also on his description of a new species of Trombidium, reported in favor of publication.

Remarks upon the COCCINELLIDÆ of the United States.

BY JOHN L. LE CONTE, M. D.

It is not my intention on this occasion to present a synopsis or catalogue of the native species belonging to the present group. The very elaborate and carefully written work of Mulsant* renders such a labor entirely superfluous. I propose now merely to present some views on the classification of the genera of this family, and to add descriptions of the new species which have recently been obtained.

On account of the difficulty of distinguishing the species of Scymnus, I have made new descriptions of all the species observed; the Corylophi, with but a single exception, are new, and I have, therefore, by adding a new description of that species, completed a monograph of that division of the present family.

* Species des Coléoptères Trimères Sécouripalpes. Lyon, 1850.